

Canine Bulletin

Nebraska Task Force - 1

May 2002

NE-TF1's New Disaster Canine Assessment

Submitted by: Monica Barger

The new disaster canine assessment is a document that has been developed to help objectively identify those dogs with high potential for succeeding as disaster search candidates with the Nebraska Task Force. The assessment was developed as a way of objectively identifying and evaluating canines with the inherent qualities necessary to be successful in disaster search work. It can be applied to dogs of any age and will assess things such as play drive, search drive, sociability with people and other canines, nerve strength, agility, focus, and their working relationship with their handler/owner.

The assessment was developed in a collaborative effort from several sources, including assessments being utilized by other USAR teams around the country. It was developed to aid the task force in identifying dogs with the highest potential of becoming certified and deployable canine teams. Training a disaster search dog takes a good deal of time and commitment, and these efforts should be focused on canines with high potential to complete the training and become certified and deployable team members. This assessment only evaluates a dog's potential, not a handler's. Handlers are always welcome to start a new canine if they choose.

The lead K-9 handler and/or his/her designee will administer the assessment on an as needed basis. More information on this new canine document will follow in the next *Canine Bulletin*.

Conco Facelift

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell

Through the cooperation of Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, our CONCO Willard rubble pile has a new look...the Force 5 Tornado of Oklahoma City in 1999.

Six truck and trailer loads of wood crates and pallets have been added to our concrete slabs, tubes, and limestone. New challenges, new reality!



Pat Kaynaroglu and K9 Cody search for victims at Conco



Bob's Dog

Submitted by: Ditto

My fellow canines, there is more to life than rescuing humans from crevices and dark holes.

I often go to a place where no one knows I am a world class search dog. They just know me as iBob's dog.î

These very special humans have only memories of dogs that used to be part of their lives. That must be why they are always so glad to see me and pet me and talk to me.



Bob & Ditto talk about isheepî



Let's play ball!

There are certified Therapy Dogs; but as with our line of work, the need is much greater than the supply. If you have the AKC Canine Good Citizen title, as I do, and your ishots,î you will probably find a place that would love to have you visit. Think about it.

A Very Special Pretest

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell

New rubble! A very special victim! An international evaluator team!

It was only supposed to be a pretest for Andrew Pitcher and Andy, in line with Lincoln policy, away from home on an unfamiliar pile. But timing turned it into a memorable experience for all of us.

The Conco/Willard training site had just been upgraded with the addition of tornado alley, courtesy of Lowe's.

Our three victims were all strangers to Andy, and one of them was Vickie Senters, former NE-TF1 canine handler, who deployed to Sedgwick County in 1998.

Pat and Hakan Kaynaroglu, of International Emergency Response K9, were visiting from Turkey and able to assist me as evaluators.

Andy and Andrew did a nice job, passing all elements except agility. Also participating were Linda Hoffert and Chip, Deborah Goodman and OneSoc, and two teams from the Missouri task force.



Clockwise from top:
Top: Evaluators: Elaine Sawtell with Hakan and Pat Kaynaroglu from Istanbul.

Middle right: After two hours, test victim Vickie Senters is rescued!

Bottom: Hakan and Pat explain reality to the handlers.

Middle left: Jim Smith of Conco helps Hakan set up.



How Do I Submit Items for the Canine Bulletin

Mail, E-mail, or Fax items to:

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Changes Also
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Mail your
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Deployment Order

1. Monica Barger (Type 1)
2. Amy Rising (Type 1)
3. Elaine Sawtell (Type 1)
4. Deborah Goodman (Type 2)
5. Hershel McAlister (Type 2)